THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS LETTER TO HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAIESTIE. DATED FROM THE TOWER.

4. May. 1641.

Anno Domini. 1641.

North e. 2

O

LETTER

BODLEIAN
2 JAN 1935
LIBRARY

The Earle of STRAFFORDS Letter, to his moſt Excellent Majeſtie, dated from the Tower. 4. *May.* 1641.

May it pleaſe your ſacred Majeſtie.

IT hath beene my greateſt griefe in all theſe troubles, to be taken as a perſon which ſhould endevour to repreſent and ſet things amiſſe betweene your Majeſtie and your people; and to give Counſells tending to the diſquiet of the three Kingdomes.

Moſt true it is, that this mine owne private Condition conſidered, it had beene a great madneſſe, ſince through your gratious favour I was ſo provided, as not to expect in any kind to mend my fortune, or pleaſe my mind, more, then by reſting where your bounteous hands had placed mee.

Nay, it is moſt mightily miſtaken, for unto your Majeſty it is well knowne, my poore, and humble adviſes concluded ſtill in this, That your Majeſtie and your people could never be happie, till there were a right underſtanding betwixt you and them: no other meanes to effect, and ſettle this happineſſe, but by the Councell, and aſſent of the Parliament; or to prevent the growing Evills upon this ſtate but by intirely putting your ſelfe in the laſt reſort, upon the loyalty, and good affections of your Engliſh ſubjects.

Yet ſuch is my misfortune, this truth findeth little credit, the contrary ſeemeth generally to be beleeved, and my ſelfe reputed, as ſome thing of ſeperation betweene you, and your people; under a heavyer cenſure then which I am perſwaded no Gentleman can ſuffer.

Now, I underſtand the minds of men are more incenſed againſt mee, notwithſtanding your Majeſtie hath declared, that in your princely opinion, I am not guilty of treaſon, nor are you ſatisfied in your conſcience to paſſe the Bill:

This bringeth me into a very great ſtreight, there is before me the ruine of my Children, and family, hitherto untouched, in all the branches of it with any foule Crimes. Here is before mee the many ills, which may befall your ſacred perſon, and the whole kingdome, ſhould your ſelfe, and Parliament part leſſe

ſatisfied

ſatisfied one with the other, then is neceſſary for the preſervation both of King, and people. Here are before mee the things moſt valued moſt feared, by mortall man, *Life*, or *Death*.

To ſay Sir, that there hath not beene a ſtrife in mee, were to make mee leſſe man, then God knoweth, mine infirmities give me. And to call a deſtruction upon my ſelfe, and yong Children, where the intentions of my heart, at leaſt have been innocent of this great offence) may be beleived, will find no eaſie conſent from fleſh and blood.

But with much ſadneſſe, I am come to a reſolution, of that which I take to be beſt becoming me, to looke upon that which is moſt principall in it ſelfe; which doubtleſſe is the proſperity of your ſacred perſon, and the common wealth, infinitly before any private mans intereſt.

And therefore in few words, as I put my ſelfe wholy upon the honour, and juſtice of my Peeres ſo clearely, as to beſeech your Majeſtie might pleaſe to have ſpared that declaration of yours on Saturday laſt, and intirely to have left me to their Lordſhips; ſo now, to ſet your Majeſties conſcience at liberty I doe moſt humbly beſeech your Majeſtie, in prevention of miſtakes which may happen, by your refuſall, to paſſe this Bill; And by this meanes remove (prayſed be God) I cannot ſay, this accurſed, (but I confeſſe) this unfortunate thing

forth of the way, towards that blessed agreement, which God I trust, shall ever establish betweene you, and your subjects.

Sir my consent shall more acquit you herein to God, then all the world can doe besides. To a willing man there is no injury done. And as by Gods grace, I forgive all the world with a calmenesse and meekenesse of infinite Contentment to my dislodging soule; So Sir, to you can I give the life of this world, withall the cheerefulnesse Imaginable; in the just acknowledgement of your exceeding favours. And onely begge that in your goodnesse, you would vouchsafe to cast youn gratious regard upon my poore Soone, and his three Sisters, lesse, or more, and no otherwise, then as their (in present) unfortunate Father, may hereafter appeare more, or lesse guilty of this death.

God long preserve your Majestie.

Your Majesties most faithfull, and humble Subject, and Servant,

Tower 4 May 1641. STRAFFORD.